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# Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /025 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HTNELSON:RLW
APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.
S/SL EDDY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250107 TOSEC 290056

STADIS//////////////////////////////////////
FOR ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY TO
THE PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR PARKINSON DELIVERED TO THE DEPARTMENT
COPY LETTER FROM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY TO THE
PRESIDENT DATED OCTOBER 7, 1976. QUOTE:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I REGRET THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AS A MATTER OF
URGENCY AT A MOMENT WHEN I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MANY DEMANDS
ON YOUR TIME. I AM INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT AT THE PRESENT
TIME, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAY BE CONSIDERING THE
IMPOS-TION OF QUOTAS ON MEAT COVERED BY THE PROVISIONS OF
THE MEAT IMPORT LAW. YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY UNDERSTAND THE
DEEP CONCERN OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT SUCH A
COURSE SHOULD BE UNDER CONSIDERATION AND I WISH TO REGISTER
STRONGLY THE HOPE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT NO
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SUCH ACTION WILL BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

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THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS OF COURSE AWARE THAT THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE IS REQUIRED UNDER THE MEAT IMPORT LAW TO ISSUE AN ESTIMATE OF MEAT LIKELY TO BE IMPORTED

INTO THE USA AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CALENDAR QUARTER. IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT, IN VIEW OF THE PREVIOUSLY UNANTICIPATED PRESSURE OF CANADIAN EXPORTS TO THE USA AN ESTIMATE MIGHT BE FORMULATED IN EXCESS OF THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT CEILING FIGURE OF 1223 MILLION POUNDS AND POSSIBLY ABOVE THE "TRIGGER" FIGURE OF 1233 MILLION POUNDS, THUS RESULTING IN IMPOSITION OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS.

I WISH TO PERSONALLY ASSURE YOU THAT AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS TO THE USA COULD IN NO WAY BE ESTIMATED AS LIKELY TO EXCEED OUR 1976 ENTITLEMENT UNDER THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. THIS AGREEMENT WAS ENTERED INTO IN GOOD FAITH ON OUR PART AS LATE AS JUNE THIS YEAR AND AUSTRALIA IS OPERATING COMPLETELY IN ACCORD WITH THIS AGREEMENT.

YOU ARE AWARE THAT AUSTRALIAN SHIPMENTS TO THE MAYAGUEZ FOREIGN TRADE ZONE HAVE RESULTED IN IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES OF A TYPE OF MEAT WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ESTIMATE TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED. THESE AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS WERE, OF COURSE, NOT INCONSISTENT WITH UNITED STATES LAWS AND NOT PRECLUDED BY OUR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, IN ORDER TO ASSIST A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE, AUSTRALIAN EXPORTERS HAVE BEEN FORMALLY INFORMED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT NO FURTHER SHIPMENTS TO MAYAGUEZ DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1976. INDEED, AS YOUR ADMINISTRATION WILL BE AWARE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT PERMITTED THE SHIP-MENT OF ANY MEAT TO MAYAGUEZ SINCE SEPTEMBER 10.

I HOPE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PERMIT YOUR ADMINISTRATION TO AVOID THE IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS WHICH, AS YOU WILL APPRECIATE FROM DISCUSSIONS DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, WOULD NOT BE WITHOUT POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. SUCH A STEP CONFIDENTIAL



WOULD, MOREOVER, HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE MORALE AND MARKET CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR INDUSTRY, WHICH IS NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED CONDITIONS.

THE IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD, IN MY VIEW, ALSO HAVE CERTAIN WIDER INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY IMPLICATIONS. BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN PROGRESS BEING MADE IN THE MULTI-

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LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE NEXT YEAR, PARTICU-
LARLY IN THE SPHERE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THE
IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS ON MEAT IMPORTS BY THE UNITED STATES
WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE ITS CREDIBILITY, AUTHORITY
AND LEADING ROLE IN SECURING MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS IN
THIS AREA -- TO OUR COMMON DISADVANTAGE.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE UNABLE TO
AVOID THE PUBLICATION OF AN ESTIMATE ABOVE THE "TRIGGER"
LEVEL, I WOULD URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THE WIDER INTERESTS
OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO USE YOUR POWERS UNDER THE
LEGISLATION TO SUSPEND THE OPERATION OF QUOTAS. IT WOULD
CERTAINLY BE THE EXPECTATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THE QUANTITY OF AUSTRALIAN MEAT
PERMITTED ENTRY TO THE USA THIS YEAR WOULD NOT BE REDUCED
BELOW THE LEVEL SPECIFIED IN OUR AGREEMENT AND THAT MEAT
NOT COVERED BY THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE DEBITED IN
ANY WAY AGAINST OUR PERMITTED EXPORTS TO THE USA.

YOURS SINCERELY, J. D. ANTHONY END QUOTE.
ROBINSON

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**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z
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**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MEATS, IMPORT CONTROLS
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**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ
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**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, EPAP, AS, US, (ANTHONY, J DOUGLAS), (FORD, GERALD R)
**To:** CANBERRA SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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